29th October 1935]

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"May I know, Sir, whether these were the only periodicals required by him?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"Those are the only periodicals desired by him and approved by the Government."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"May I know from the Hon. the Law Member whether the prisoner required any other books?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"Notice."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"May I know Sir, whether he made a requisition for certain conveniences such as easy chair, mosquito-curtain and other things?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"Notice again."

Death of a prisoner in the Cannanore jail due to alleged flogging.

* 221 *Q.*—Mrs. A. RUKMANI LAKSHMIPATHI: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that about the beginning of this year a prisoner confined in the Cannanore jail was flogged while he was suffering from dysentery; and

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the prisoner died from the effects of shock due to flogging?

A.—(*a*) He was given 15 stripes for deliberately refusing to work when he was all right. At the time flogging was ordered, the Superintendent and Medical Officer was perfectly satisfied that the prisoner was free from any trace of dysentery. Two days after he developed Bacillary dysentery and died the same night.

(*b*) No.

Mrs. A. RUKMANI LAKSHMIPATHI:—"May I know, Sir, the interval of time that passed between the time when the medical officer pronounced that the prisoner was absolutely free from any trace of dysentery and the time when the flogging took place?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"I take it that the medical officer examined the prisoner before the flogging was administered and found him to be in perfectly good health."

Mrs. A. RUKMANI LAKSHMIPATHI:—"I wanted to know the interval that passed between the time when the actual flogging took place and the time when the medical officer pronounced him to be absolutely free from any trace of dysentery?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"I think I made it clear that these prisoners have to be examined a few minutes before flogging is to be administered to them."

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur:—"Did the medical officer certify that the prisoner was fit to receive the flogging intended to be inflicted on him?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"Yes, I should think so."

[29th October 1935

Mr. YAKUB HASAN:—"Did it not strike the Hon. the Law Member as an extraordinary coincidence that this prisoner should have been found without any symptom of dysentery previous to flogging and that he should have developed dysentery immediately after the flogging?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"He did not immediately thereafter develop dysentery. It was only two days afterwards that dysentery developed. I do not see anything surprising about it. Man has no control over such things."

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"May I ask the Hon. the Law Member whether the Government do not consider the necessity to abolish flogging as a punishment in these modern days when it is considered an inhuman punishment?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"It is a matter of opinion, and the authority of the Government of India would have to be invoked."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"May I know whether, according to medical opinion, it is usual for a person to develop dysentery and die the same night, or this is an exceptional case?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"I am not a medical man to give expert medical opinion."

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur:—"May I know if flogging did in any way contribute to the death of the prisoner?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"Medical opinion is certainly that death was not in the least caused by flogging."

Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—"Will the Hon. the Law Member please say what was the reason given by the prisoner for refusing to work?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"I do not know; I think it was his political conviction."

Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—"Was he asked to show cause why he should not be flogged? I am asking whether it is not the practice, before a person is sentenced to be flogged, that he should be asked to show cause why this punishment should not be inflicted on him?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"Flogging comes in only after a number of offences have been committed. In this case he was given ordinary punishment on three or four occasions and this was the fourth punishment."

Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—"In view of the importance of the question, will not the Hon. the Law Member make a stringent enquiry?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"As stringent an enquiry as possible in the circumstances has been held and reports have been received."